

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The reference to an earlier pending US patent application at pages 28 and 29 of the specification has been updated as requested.

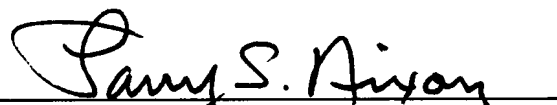
The allowance of claims 1-17 and 23-27 is appreciatively noted.

The rejection of claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102 and the rejection of claims 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully traversed. However, since those claims have now been cancelled above so as to expedite allowance of this application, such grounds of rejection have been mooted and it is not believed necessary to explain the reasons for such traversal at this time.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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